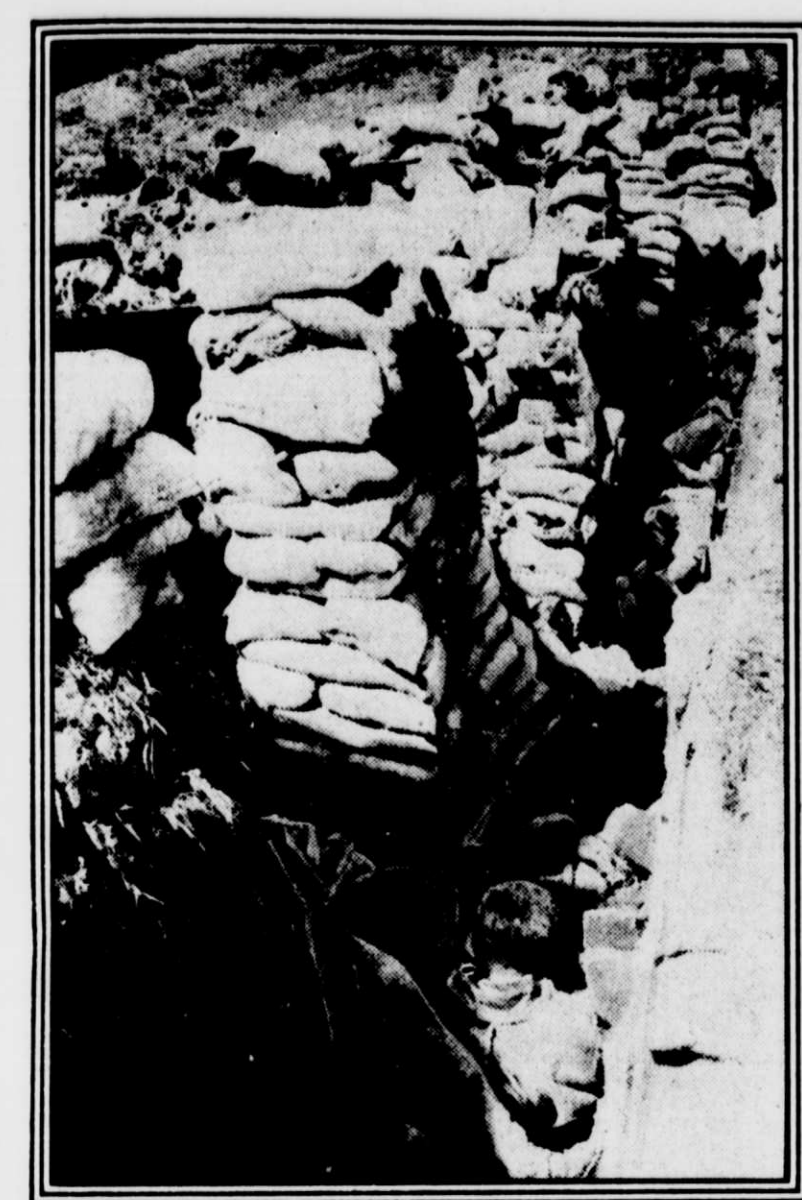


INTERESTING Sidelight on War SEEN BY "SUN" CORRESPONDENTS

Battle for the Labyrinth an Unceasing Eighteen Day Fight With Terrific Slaughter

No Letup Relieved the Long Struggle Which Won for the French Arms a Most Intricate and Ingenious System of Trenches Constructed by the Germans to the North of Arras—Total Casualties in Long Battle Were Almost 18,000—French Victory Important From Strategic Viewpoint.



ONE of the German trenches captured by the French in their onslaught against the fortified position known as the "labyrinth" is shown in the accompanying photograph. The trenches were formidably defended, in many cases being reinforced with concrete.

When the full history of the war in the north of France comes to be written, an entire chapter may well be given to the heroic struggle which gave the French possession of the tract of land, north of Arras, known as the "labyrinth." This combination of forts and trenches had been prepared by the Germans during seven months after the retreat from the Marne, and when the French reached the outskirts of Souchez, to the north, and the railroad embankment almost to Giverny from Arras, the "labyrinth" became a salient of the first importance, the worst thorn in the side of the French in the advance on Lens.

The "sector north of Arras" has been for the last month the opening paragraph in almost every communiqué issued by the French War Office. It is here that the French and British forces join, and the general objective is Lille, toward which the French are moving in an easterly drive, the British advancing south and east.

The "labyrinth" had to be taken at any cost. Before victory crowned the arms of France her soldiers had fought for eighteen days, without a moment's respite, day or night, hammered by unceasing shell fire, in many places engaging in ferocious hand to hand conflicts in underground tunnels and concrete trenches.

The losses on both sides were enormous. The French lost 2,000 men; of the picked German troops ordered to hold the position to the death one regiment was annihilated.

FOOD SUPPLIES IN VIENNA SCARCE, POOR AND COSTLY

Meat Much More of a Luxury Than in Germany Because Dual Monarchy Was Slow to Conserve Resources—Dinner Once \$1.25 Now Costs \$3.

By DR. WOLF VON SCHIEBRAND

VIENNA, June 9.—Once every week, on Sundays, my wife and I permit ourselves the luxury of a meat dinner. We frequent as a rule a restaurant owned and managed by the municipality of Vienna and known as the Rathaus-Keller (or City Hall cellar), because it is in the basement of the municipal building. Before the war a plain but well cooked meal for two could be had there for about \$1.25, including a pint of the excellent white wine grown in the Vienna district. Now such a repast costs us about \$3 and is not so plentiful.

Last Sunday, for example, we had a beef soup, a small steak (a very small one, tough and dry) for both, a small side dish each of cauliflower and cucumbers (which amounted alone to nearly a dollar) and a bit of one of the famous Vienna pastries, washed down with a 20 cent pint of white wine. The tiny steak cost \$1.25. When we arose from the table we felt that double the quantity would have been very welcome. Every day the courts pronounce sentences on such culprits—agents, dealers, large and small owners. But usually this means but small fines and a short term of imprisonment. There was a man who had been sentenced to 100 days in prison for having sold 10,000 crowns (about \$2,000) of food, which was the largest individual penalty thus far inflicted. There was another who had been sentenced to 100 days in prison for having sold 10,000 crowns (about \$2,000) of food, which was the largest individual penalty thus far inflicted. There was another who had been sentenced to 100 days in prison for having sold 10,000 crowns (about \$2,000) of food, which was the largest individual penalty thus far inflicted.

even 12 inch guns were in position and sprayed the entire French line unceasingly. The smoke of the shells hid the German lines from the eyes of the watchful French.

At the same time the French 75's and 105's and heavier guns were pounding away at the German barricades in front of the southern edge of the "labyrinth." It has been estimated that a thousand shells a minute were raining on a stretch of only a few thousand square yards. On May 30 Gen. Maudhuy, the commander of the French troops, decided that the preliminary work had been accomplished. He gave the order for an attack in force by infantry. As the big guns became silent the "cavalry" who had been chafing in their trenches for days and longing to go to the "bosches" with the bayonets scrambled over the parapets and flung themselves headlong against the German barricades.

Terrific Struggle.

"Everywhere, except on the right," says the report of the observer, made public on June 21, "we captured the first line. Behind this was a great number of forts and barricades. We took some of these, but others stopped us. One hundred and fifty men, surprised in their homes by the furious charge of the French infantry, fell into our hands."

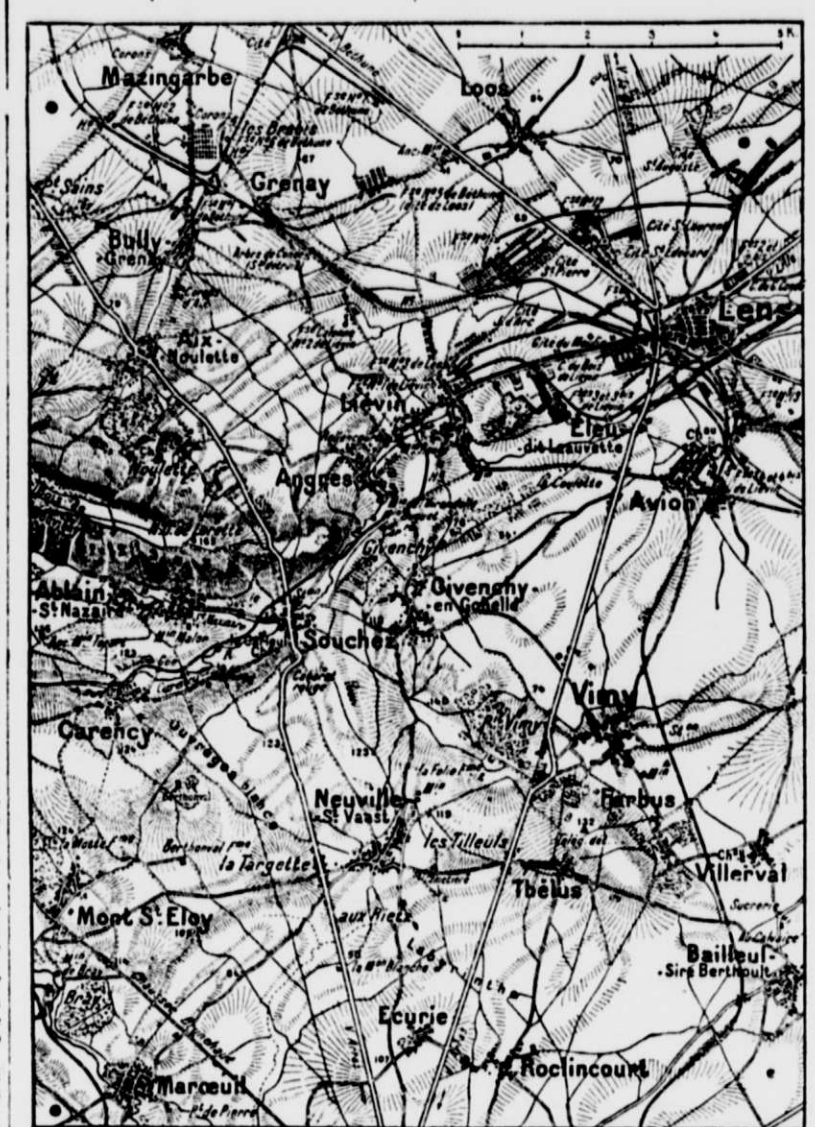
The first stage of the attack was a triumph. Then followed a hand to hand struggle in the northern end of the combats waged by the Roman legions

on this ground, full of big holes and piled with dead. The combat never ceased, either day or night. The attacking elements, constantly renewed, crushed the Germans with hand grenades and demolished their trench barricades. There was not an hour of truce or an instant of repose. The men were under a sun so hot in the trenches that they fought bareheaded and in their shirt sleeves.

"On each of those bloody days there were acts of incomparable heroism. From three o'clock at a time we worked forward through ground where the Germans had dug, ten meters under ground, formidable shelters. The enemy's artillery continued firing on our line without interruption. Our reserves suffered, for in this upturned earth, where every blow from a pick would disinter a body, one could not slowly the deep shelters which the situation demanded."

The French soldiers showed their grim but unquenchable spirit of fun by naming the trenches where this desperate fighting was going on after German commanders. Thus they dashed down "Von Kluck alley" and dashed madly into "Eisenstein lane" in a furious pursuit of fleeing Germans. The moodiest spot of all, where hundreds of French and Germans lay locked in a death grip, was christened "La Salle des Fêtes" (The Banquet Hall).

Finally, on May 17, eighteen days after the assault began, the French won the trenches where this desperate "labyrinth" with only a small space be-



THE accompanying map shows the region surrounding the famous "labyrinth" occupied by the French after day and night fighting lasting eighteen days. The "labyrinth" was constructed by the Germans just north of Ecurie and was the most formidable obstruction encountered by the French in the advance against Lens.

and the soldiers of Alexander. Foot by foot the French Zouaves, the first to enter the "labyrinth," fought their way, hurling hand grenades at unseen foes, down into earth trenches and basements. The Germans, trapped in their own devices, falling by the score when a wall of flame from hidden machine guns and other weapons of the turn of a communications trench.

"Without a stop, from May 30 to June 17," says the observer, "they fought

mean famine. It does not mean that the people are actually starving, as I have seen in some of the foreign papers. But it does mean that for the poor the difficulty of obtaining sufficient food is much greater than it is in normal times. The food is scarce and expensive. A loaf of bread costs 1.50 crowns, a kilo of meat 1.50 crowns, a kilo of butter 1.50 crowns, a kilo of sugar 1.50 crowns. The average daily wage is 1.50 crowns. The average daily wage is 1.50 crowns. The average daily wage is 1.50 crowns.

Germany More Fortunate.

What makes the average Austrian so boiling hot is the fact that all this outrageous rise in prices could be for the most part have been avoided. I have before me the market reports of three cities in Germany—Berlin, Elberfeld, Breslau—and they show prices for supplies averaging about 60 per cent lower than what we in Austria-Hungary have to pay. Some articles are only 25 to 30 per cent less, others but half what they were before the war. Striking an average I find they are 60 per cent lower. And why? This war has regularly exported large numbers of cattle, hogs and prepared provisions. But that was before four millions of soldiers had to be fed. Again, the German government took prompt and energetic measures immediately after war was declared to husband her resources in meat, bacon, live and dressed, and to prescribe and enforce rules preventing the aforesaid "food usury."

She also hastened while there was still time to import from her neighbors and elsewhere all the food she could obtain, especially cereals and meats. Austria-Hungary, largely owing to her dual political and economic complexion, was unable to do this. The result was that she was left with a very small reserve of food. When she did it was too late.

The new crops are growing finely and rapidly with this phenomenal summer weather. We are now having, and if nothing happens new grain will be

Italian Front 317 Miles; 800,000 Soldiers Cover It

The Italian army is massed along a battle front 317 miles long. Only a portion of Italy's war resources have so far been utilized and the army has been only partially mobilized, since 800,000 men are more than sufficient at present to carry on the war against Austria. Out of the 317 miles of front only about thirty are level ground, the rest is hilly or mountainous. Italy's front, which has considerably extended inward since the war began, is divided as follows:

1. From the Stevio Pass to Civedale in the province of Sondrio, Valtellina, twelve miles.
2. From Civedale to Lake Garda toward the province of Brescia, about eighty-five miles.
3. From Lake Garda to Marivolda along the provinces of Verona, Vicenza and Belluno, 115 miles.
4. Along the ranges of the Carnic Alps north of the provinces of Belluno and Udine, thirty miles.
5. Between the Carnic and the Julian Alps, from the province of Udine to the upper valley of the Fella, twenty miles.
6. From Sella Nevea to Porto Basso, on the Adriatic, between the province of Udine and Eastern Friuli, fifty-five miles.

FAMOUS BEAUTY WAS GERMAN SPY

Mme. Bertha Trost Gave Elaborate Dinners at Fine London Home.

MANY OFFICERS' GUESTS

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

LONDON, June 15.—Thousands who had never heard of Mme. Bertha Trost knew her quite well by sight. The curious relic of bygone days regularly drove in the park, dressed in figured silks worn over an ample crinoline, and a poke bonnet perched on bunches of white curls which she wore on each side of her beautifully tinted cheeks.

Mme. Trost, with her early Victorian getup, was ostensibly a beauty specialist with an exceedingly aristocratic clientele, who patronized her "Beauty Shop" in the West End, and many of her clients even visited her at her beautiful house at Marlborough Gate, Hyde Park.

The "business" was in reality merely a blind. Mme. Trost was for over twenty years in the pay of the German Government and utilized those wonderful parties at 4 Marlborough Gate for strictly "political" purposes. There she mingled freely with many people who were in a position to give information such as she needed and was skilled in extracting.

The "Lady of the Crinoline," as she was called, has been unmasked, and London will see no more of her Victorian gowns and poke bonnets. She has been deported as an undesirable alien.

Some December she moved to the house at Marlborough Gate, where she lived in considerable style, with a staff of seven servants, including a butler, whose duties of menial work were the envy of the neighborhood.

It was about this time that madame suddenly removed all external signs of her maniacal operations from her "shop" and displayed an elaborate facade indicating that she was "Bertha Trost, dealer in antiques."

House of Mystery.

But the real centre of interest was the mysterious house at 4 Marlborough Gate. Here the beauty specialist, who had been in the habit of receiving her guests in a room decorated in rich tones of pink, and the paying guests were conducted from room to room, and finally to a room at the rear of the house, where she lived in a roomy, comfortable, and well-furnished house.

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FRANCE HAS MADE VAST STRIDES IN AVIATION AS A RESULT OF THE WAR



Big Chemical Factory at Ludwigshafen Attacked by French Aviation Squadron.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

PARIS, June 17.—What has been the progress in the science of aviation since August 4, 1914? As progress in detail must, if possible, be kept secret from the enemy, but M. Serre, in charge of the factory of the establishment of Henry Humber, suffices to put the aeroplane in France, has consented to give some information on this subject to the correspondent of THE SUN.

"Production of aeroplanes," he stated, "has increased on an immense scale since August, 1914. It is not advisable to go into figures, but for every aeroplane which existed in France on the last day of July, 1914, there are now so many that nobody would believe the exact statement if it were made. Formerly the Chamber of Deputies paid for each year and how many could one be sure of selling abroad. Now the question is how many machines a day can the factories turn out. Prices, which were the bane of aviation science, have disappeared from consideration; the entire industry has been militarized."

The Germans, of whom M. Serre speaks amiably, came at France with a formidable superiority in number of aeroplanes. They were fully conscious long in advance. In addition to their numerical superiority the Germans had a motor of whose merits M. Serre cannot speak too highly. The Mercedes motor, he said, is an extraordinary mechanical development. He did not go into the question of whether or not it is better than the French motor, but he said that the French motor is not so good.

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Raid Was One of Most Spectacular of Aerial Operations Undertaken in War.

of which was the destruction of the chemical factories at Ludwigshafen, Bavaria, was one of the most brilliant of the entire war. A great part of the town of Ludwigshafen is nothing but an immense factory. It is the seat of the laboratory of the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, which was founded in 1865 at Mannheim, in the Grand Duchy of Baden (whence its name) and transferred five years later to Ludwigshafen, on the left bank of the Rhine. At the outbreak of the war it was transformed in great part into a factory for the production of nitrates necessary for the making of explosives. It turns out two-thirds of the nitrates used in the manufacture of German munitions.

With every detail of the raid arranged, maps of the country to be traversed and detailed maps of the town of Ludwigshafen, the French aviators started on their perilous mission at daybreak on May 26. Each machine had gasoline for seven hours. Some of them carried six bombs of 50 kilos (110 pounds), others carrying one of 157 (350 pounds) and two of 50 (110 pounds). They flew to a height of about 6,500 feet, so as to be able to cross the enemy's lines in comparative safety. The rising sun caused the fliers some difficulty and between Sarreburg and Saverne, in Alsace, they were subjected to a violent bombardment by the German batteries. Descending the valley of the Rhine and passing over the fortress of Hatt they reached Mannheim and continuing their journey were over their objective after a flight of three hours.

On arriving at the end of the trip the aviators separated into two groups, one flying over Oppau, the other over the principal factory of the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik. In a quarter of an hour more than a ton of explosives had been dropped by the French fliers. Dashing away from the scene of their exploit the aviators were able to watch the effect of the raid. Heavy columns of smoke burst from the roofs of the factory and filled the air, while loud explosions were heard issuing from the high chimney stacks like the roar of shell from the mouth of a gun. The workers in the factories were fleeing on all sides.

This success was marred by one accident. On the way back the machine carrying Chief of Squadron De Goyas and Adjt. Humber-Vanilla was forced to descend. The machine had scarcely reached the ground when the aviators on high saw flames bursting forth from the factory and the pilot had set it afire to prevent it falling into the hands of the Germans.

Recent reports announced that both De Goyas and Humber-Vanilla are prisoners of war. The photograph shows the aviators who took part in the raid on Ludwigshafen. The smaller photograph shows Chief of Squadron De Goyas and Adjt. Humber-Vanilla.

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